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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester Real Estate Reassessment Mailing of Notices Delayed & Town Meetings Set

Gloucester County is in the process of completing the first in-house biennial reassessment of all real property in the county to determine assessed value for real estate tax purposes. All property owners will be mailed a *Notice of Real Estate Assessment Change* which states the owner's reassessed value for all real estate property and improvements. While preliminary plans were to mail the notices to property owners by October 1, 2009, the mailing has been delayed to address a quality control issue dealing with contiguous parcels of land owned by the same property owner.

Over the past year, the Gloucester County Real Estate Assessment Office staff has been working to create an automated and computerized modeling system that generates and assigns values to properties which are a fair and accurate reflection of market value. At certain stages of the model, the real estate assessment staff runs quality assurance and control measures to test the assessment values produced to assure equity and high standards of accuracy. During the testing of the contiguous parcels component of the residential real estate model, discrepancies were noted that required staff to review and confirm specific data.

Gloucester County Assessor Reese Milligan and his staff are currently addressing the issue so that notices can be mailed to all property owners as quickly as possible. "I want to reassure the property owners that the primary goal in the reassessment process continues to be to provide a fair, equitable and uniform assessment that reflects the highest quality and standards our office can provide and our landowners deserve. The technologies we are

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implementing with the automated modeling system will provide a strong foundation for current and future reassessments. We expected a few setbacks, being that we are using new technologies and programs, but we are still within reasonable timeframes to complete the reassessment by December 31, 2009. It is more important that the quality of our product is of the highest standard we can provide before notices are finalized and mailed.”

Citizens interested in being kept informed on the reassessment process are invited to attend two upcoming town meetings, one hosted by Teresa Altemus for the York Magisterial District residents beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13th at Achilles Elementary School and one hosted by Bobby Crewe for the Gloucester Point Magisterial District residents also beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 19th at Abingdon Elementary School. At both meetings updates on the reassessment process and mailing of notices will be provided, as well as an opportunity for citizens to ask questions and share concerns.

The *Notice of Real Estate Assessment Change* is not an owner’s real estate tax bill. The new reassessed value will take effect on January 1, 2010 and will be used to determine the owner’s total real estate tax bill for 2010, based on the tax rate which will be set by the Gloucester Board of Supervisors by May 1, 2010. Real estate taxes are collected in two installments with payments due June 30th and December 5th.

Once property owners receive their notices, they are encouraged to thoroughly review the information used to establish the assessed value for accuracy. Property records are available online at www.gloucesterva.info/assessment/ or at the Real Estate Assessment Office, located on the first floor of County Office Building Two at 6489 Main Street, Gloucester Court House.

Property owners who need to report errors or corrections or who believe their property has not been properly valued are encouraged to request a departmental review. Information on the review and appeal processes will be included with the notices. Special tax relief programs are offered for the elderly, the disabled and for land use exemptions. These programs have specific eligibility guidelines. For more information, please call the Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office at 693-3451.

For more detailed information on the reassessment process, please visit the Real Estate Assessment Office’s website at www.gloucesterva.info/assessment/ or call the office at 693-3087.

End of Announcement